AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~bioabsorbable~~ suture anchor for anchoring tissue to a bone, comprising:

an elongate body defined by a longitudinal axis of symmetry, a first, leading end and a second, trailing end, the elongate body comprising two opposed surfaces between the first and second ends, and a plurality of sidewalls extending between the two opposed surfaces;

a flared portion formed on the second end and extending from one of the sidewalls, the flared portion being adapted to engage and anchor into bone tissue; and

a suture channel formed in the elongate body for passage of a suture strand therethrough, the suture channel extending between the two opposed surfaces and being oriented substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis of symmetry of the body;

wherein the suture anchor is configured to toggle and anchor inside a bone cavity based on tension being applied to a suture in the suture channel.

2. (Previously Presented) The anchor of claim 1, wherein a length of the elongate body is in the range of about 2 to about 6 mm.

3. (Previously Presented) The anchor of claim 1, wherein a width of the second trailing end is about 1 mm to about 3 mm at its widest portion.

4. (Original) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the first, leading end is tapered.

5. (Original) The anchor of claim 4, wherein the first, leading end extends into a blunt tip having a continuous surface.

6. (Original) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the suture channel is bordered by an opening on each of the two opposed surfaces.

7. (Currently Amended) The anchor of claim 6, wherein a center of ~~the~~ each opening is laterally offset with respect to the longitudinal axis of symmetry of the elongate body.

8. (Original) The anchor of claim 7, wherein the opening has a chamfered rim.

9. (Original) The anchor of claim 7, wherein the opening has a smooth rim.

10. (Original) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the flared portion has a shape effective to penetrate into bone.

11. (Original) The anchor of claim 10, wherein the flared portion includes a sharp edge.

12. (Original) The anchor of claim 10, wherein the flared portion includes a flat, bone-contacting face with a knife edge.

13. (Original) The anchor of claim 1, further including an insertion tool engaging bore extending into the elongate body from the second trailing end thereof.

14. (Original) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the elongate body is formed with a blue dye for visualization.

15. (Previously Presented) A system for anchoring tissue to a bone, comprising:

a bioabsorbable suture anchor having:

an elongate body defined by a longitudinal axis of symmetry, a first leading end and a second, trailing end, the elongate body comprising two opposed surfaces between the first and second ends, and a plurality of sidewalls extending between the two opposed surfaces;

a bore extending into the elongate body from the second trailing end thereof;

a flared portion formed on the second end and extending from one of the sidewalls, the flared portion being adapted to engage and anchor into bone tissue, wherein the suture anchor is configured to toggle and anchor inside a bone cavity based on tension being applied to a suture in the suture channel; and

a suture channel formed in the elongate body for passage of a suture strand therethrough, the suture channel extending between the two opposed surfaces and being oriented substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis of symmetry of the body;

a loop of suture thread attached to the suture anchor; and

a suture anchor insertion tool, the tool having an elongate member with a proximal, handle end and a distal, attachment end.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the proximal, attachment end of the suture anchor insertion tool includes an insertion tip configured to provide an interference fit with the bore of the suture anchor.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein a length of the elongate body is in the range of about 2 to about 6 mm.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein a width of the second trailing end is about 1 mm to about 3 mm at its widest portion.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of attaching tissue to a bone in a patient's body, comprising the steps of:

providing a system for anchoring tissue to bone, the system including a bioabsorbable suture anchor having an elongate body defined by a longitudinal axis of symmetry, a first leading end and a second, trailing end, the elongate body comprising two opposed surfaces between the first and second ends, and a plurality of sidewalls extending between the two opposed surfaces, a flared portion formed on the second end and extending from one of the sidewalls, the flared portion being adapted to engage and anchor into bone tissue, wherein the suture anchor is configured to toggle and anchor inside a bone cavity, and a suture channel formed in the elongate body for passage of a suture strand therethrough, the suture channel extending between the two opposed surfaces and being oriented substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis of symmetry of the body, the system further including a loop of suture thread attached to the suture anchor;

forming a bone cavity in the bone where the tissue is to be anchored;

securing the suture strand to a portion of tissue to be attached to the bone;

inserting the suture anchor at least partially within the bone cavity; and

toggling the suture anchor by pulling on the attached suture strand such that the flared portion of the anchor penetrates into an inner surface of the bone cavity.

20. (Canceled).

21. (New) The anchor of claim 1, wherein a centerline of the suture channel is laterally offset with respect to the longitudinal axis.

22. (New) The anchor of claim 21, wherein the centerline of the suture channel is laterally offset in a direction opposite to the direction of the flared portion.

23. (New) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the transverse suture channel is formed substantially at right angles to the longitudinal axis of symmetry of the elongate body.

24. (New) The anchor of claim 23, wherein a centerline of the suture channel is laterally offset with respect to the longitudinal axis.

25. (New) The anchor of claim 24, wherein the centerline of the suture channel is laterally offset in a direction opposite to the direction of the flared portion.